

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 10:48 AM



Hello Mesa College Community!

Weekly Update from Prez Hands provides a brief overview of the exciting efforts taking place within our community. The updates are also a great way to tell our collective story of success, and to document our journey of becoming the Leading College of Equity and Excellence. Enjoy!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*



Message from President Hands

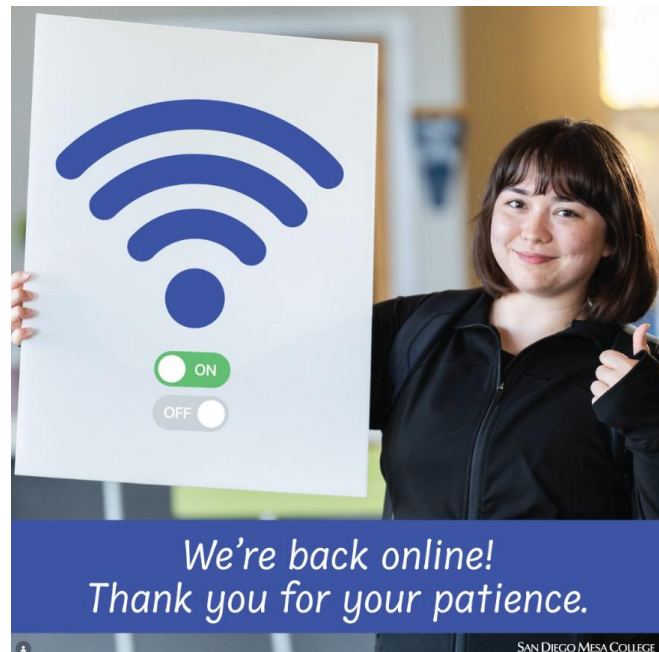
Dear Mesa College Community,

After a challenging week and a half following the district cybersecurity attack, I am grateful for the incredible patience, creativity, flexibility, and care our college community demonstrated to ensure continuity of service and support for our students.

I am pleased to share that internet access, website functionality, Wi-Fi connectivity, and district file server access have now been re-enabled for Mesa College.

If you are unable to locate expected files or folders, or experience any access issues, please contact the ITS Help Desk for support: 📞 619-388-7000

Thank you again for the many ways you showed up for our students and one another during this time. Your resilience and commitment truly reflected the spirit of Mesa College.



With gratitude,
Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.
President, San Diego Mesa College



JACK KENT COOKE

FOUNDATION

San Diego Mesa College student Oleksandr Sharlai has been named a recipient of the prestigious 2026 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, one of the nation's most competitive scholarships for community college students. Oleksandr was also recently honored with the 2026 Mesa College President's Award for Academic Excellence.

Selected from more than 1,300 applicants nationwide, Oleksandr is among just 60 students across the country and one of 14 students in California to receive the Jack Kent Cooke award, which provides up to \$55,000 per year to complete a bachelor's degree.

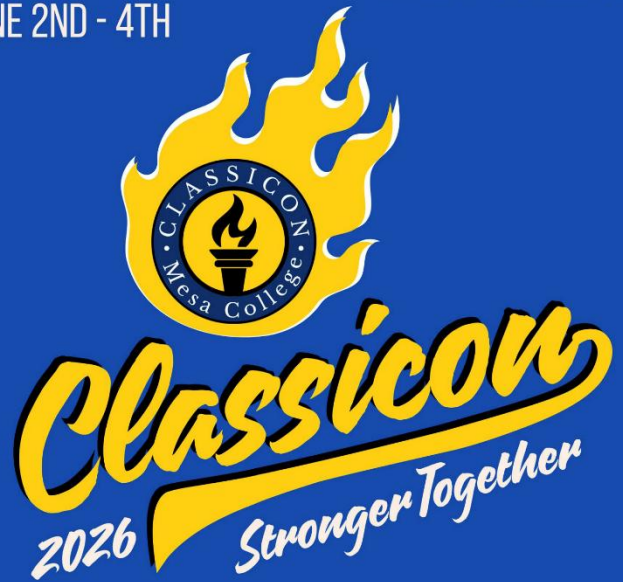
A Biology major with a 4.0 GPA, Oleksandr arrived in the United States after war disrupted his life in Ukraine. At Mesa, he rebuilt his academic path through rigorous STEM coursework, neuroscience research at Scripps Research through the Mesa Impactship Program, and leadership in mental health advocacy and student research. Active in Honors, Psi Beta, and Speech and Debate, he plans to transfer this fall and pursue an MD-PhD in psychiatry.

Oleksandr's story reflects the extraordinary talent, resilience, and purpose that define San Diego Mesa College students.



REGISTER NOW!
JUNE 2ND - 4TH

EVENT SCHEDULE



[SDCCD and City Explore New Cultural Vision for Golden Hall](#)

The San Diego Community College District and the City of San Diego have announced plans to explore transforming Golden Hall into a museum and educational center as part of the downtown Civic Center redevelopment project.

The proposal includes a gallery space for Mesa College's growing World Art Collection, classrooms, collections storage, and community event space. The collection features more than 1,300 works and artifacts from Africa, the Pacific Islands, Mesoamerica, and Asia.

Mayor Todd Gloria called the project an opportunity to reimagine a historic civic space through education, arts, and community engagement. SDCCD Chancellor Greg Smith noted the project would expand public access to the Mesa College World Art Collection and educational programs.

A non-binding MOU allows the district to assess the site before potential development moves forward.

[Classicon 2026 is Registration is Open!](#)

On behalf of our Classified Professional Learning Committee (CPLC), we invite you to Classicon, Mesa's professional learning conference for classified professionals! The event is taking place on June 2nd – 4th. Our theme this year is centered on teamwork and collaboration, bringing us together to strengthen how we support one another and serve our diverse campus community. Together, we'll explore how collective effort leads to more inclusive and equitable outcomes for all.

We are "Stronger Together"!

- **June 2nd, 2026 (Tuesday)** 10am – 3:30pm | Workshops
- **June 3rd, 2026 (Wednesday)** 10am – 3:30pm | Workshops
- **June 4th, 2026 (Thursday)**) 10am – 3:30pm | Sports Day

Please note that some sessions have limited capacity and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once a workshop reaches capacity, registration for that session will close.

Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, [AP 3415](#). This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond: "I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you." To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the [MySDCCD portal](#)
- Download the [SDCCDsafe App](#)
- Refer to the [District's Immigration Resources page](#)
- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

Mesa College CMGT Students Connect with Construction Industry Leaders Through ABC

Last week on May 4th, students from the San Diego Mesa College Construction Management (CMGT) Program participated in an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) event, where they were introduced to career opportunities in the construction industry (photo attached). ABC is also looking forward to launching its first student chapter in California at Mesa College in the upcoming academic year (see attached).

We are excited about this opportunity for our students and wanted to share the good news!



Mesa represented SDCCD friends at the 51st Annual Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) Leadership Awards.

The 51st Annual Leadership Awards Gala hosted by the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) brought together community leaders, advocates, and supporters this past Tuesday evening in Downtown San Diego to celebrate decades of service, leadership, and impact across the region.

Congratulations Juliette Parker!



I wanted to take a moment to share a special recognition that occurred at the annual statewide CA Intersegmental Articulation Council (CIAC Articulation Officers' Conference). Each year, we celebrate two individuals in the CIAC community (one from the southern region and one from the northern region) through the **CIAC Service Award**—an honor recognizing a member whose dedication, innovation, and leadership have made a lasting impact on articulation across California. As described by the CIAC executive board, this award is not just about service; it's about **transformative contributions**—those who build bridges between systems, champion student success, and strengthen collaboration statewide. The nominee must demonstrate **exceptional and sustained service** benefiting students, institutions, and the broader CIAC community.

Please join me in congratulating our exceptional colleague and Mesa's Articulation Officer, Juliette Parker who was nominated and selected for this important award by her colleagues and peers within the 116 CA Community Colleges, 23 CA State Universities (CSUs), 9 University of CA campuses (UCs), and numerous CA private/independent universities. This is a testament to Juliette's leadership and advocacy for articulation, transfer, and equity- locally, regionally, and statewide. She is highly respected amongst her peers and community. And, conversely, offers the same respect and care to her peers, community, and students by lifting each of us and others up for the betterment of the world as a whole.



Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2nd Floor).

Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.



Save the Date!

Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and

Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community. We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!



MESA VISIONS

Literary Magazine Launch Party & Readings

**WED
5/20**

**SAVE THE DATE
2:00PM - 4:00PM | MC-211**

Please join us to celebrate our Mesa College writers & storytellers as they share their creative pieces with the campus!

Created & Hosted by
ENGL 249: Intro to Creative Writing

Prof. Mariam Kushkaki & Prof. Nicole Michals
mkushkak@sdcdd.edu | nmichals@sdcdd.edu

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

2026 ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

MAY 12 TUESDAY 11:10AM - 12:10PM	Yes...And... @ K-107 (PERG160) Using the fundamental concept of "Yes...And," we explore three concepts essential for AANHPI. We will use Improv activities to witness how each individual's voice weaves unique colors and strengths into the AANHPI legacy.
MAY 15 FRIDAY 5:30PM - 7:30 PM	AAPI Recognition Ceremony @ Mesa College Quad Celebrating the personal & academic achievements of our graduating and transferring Asian American Pacific Islander students.
MAY 18-21 MON-THURS	AMP Finals Study Jams Get support for midterms! Monday, May 18 - 1:30-3:30PM @ KUP 14-201 Tuesday, May 19 - 11AM- 1PM @ VSC K-103 Wednesday, May 20 - 1:30-3:30PM @ Honors Center K-108 Thursday, May 21 - 5:30-7:30PM @ LRC Room 114
MAY 19 TUESDAY 11:15AM - 12:35PM	Pathways in Political Science @ Mesa College SB-113 Learn about different careers in Political Science from our guest speakers Dr. Ryan Fan and Profe. Tomas Hernández.
MAY 19 TUESDAY 1PM - 4:30PM	Henna Workshop @ Mesa College KUP Village Learn the background and history behind Henna and how to create designs
MAY 20 WEDNESDAY 9:35AM - 12:35PM	KAPWA Summit @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201B Join us and celebrate our students as they manifest their inner artists, activists, healers, and humanitarians in a powerful showcase of their work.
MAY 20 WEDNESDAY 2:30PM - 4PM	AAPI Men of Color Meeting End of Year Celebration @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201A Learn about who we are and what we do as the API Men of Color initiative. We will be gathering as we break bread (or spam), talk story, make/take space and reflect on the year before finishing the semester and finals.
MAY 22 FRIDAY 3:00PM	Asian Pacific Diversity Picnic @ Kearny Mesa Recreation Center Come play games, enjoy snacks and celebrate the end of the semester with our Asian Pacific Diversity Club
MAY 29 FRIDAY 10:30AM - 12:30PM	Mixed Student Union Meeting @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201B Celebrate the end of semester with Mixed Student Union club members and peers!

These events are brought to you by KAPWA Learning Community, AANHPI SAP, AAPI Studies, AANAPISI, Asian Pacific Diversity Club, Work Based Learning, Mixed Student Union, AAPI Men of Color, AAPI Community of Practice, Outreach, NextUP, FAST, CARE/CalWORKS, Mesa College Library, Mesa Counseling, English, Chicano Studies, Journalism, and Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Committee. For more information, please contact: mesakapwa@sdcdd.edu. Request for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than 30 working days prior to the event.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

2026

COMMENCEMENT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Friday, May 29th at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Mesa College Family,

Commencement is one of the most meaningful celebrations on our campus, and we invite you to be a part of this special day as we honor the incredible achievements of the **Class of 2026**.

This year's Commencement Ceremony will take place on **Friday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Merrill Douglass Stadium**, and we are seeking volunteers to help create a welcoming and memorable experience for our graduates and their guests.

Our graduates have worked hard to reach this milestone, and it takes our entire Mesa community coming together to celebrate them. Volunteers play a vital role in ensuring the ceremony runs smoothly and that our students feel supported as they cross this important finish line.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the following roles:

Field Setup

Supports with placing programs on chairs, setting diploma covers, and assisting with other field preparation tasks before the ceremony begins.

Guest Liaison

Helps guests find seating areas, assists with line organization, and provides general wayfinding support throughout the venue.

Gate Support

Supports guest entry by scanning tickets and assisting with counting and tracking guest attendance.

Student Check-In

Assists graduates as they arrive by helping with the student check-in process and directing them to the appropriate staging areas.

Student Refreshments

Supports the refreshment station for graduates and helps ensure students have access to water and snacks before the ceremony.

Faculty Room Support

Assists faculty prior to the ceremony by helping prepare the faculty room and providing general support as faculty arrive.

If you would like to volunteer, please complete the [Commencement Volunteer Registration Form](#).

Additional details regarding volunteer roles, arrival times, and day-of logistics will be shared with registered volunteers as we get closer to the ceremony. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to **Ayana Woods** or **Liza Abuyo** at:

awoods002@sdccd.edu | fabuyo@sdccd.edu

Thank you for helping us celebrate and uplift our graduates. We truly appreciate the Mesa community coming together to make this milestone moment unforgettable.

New Issue Alert

[Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!](#)

The Mesa Journeys newsletter gives a more in-depth look at all the great things that are happening on our campus. We encourage all faculty and staff to pass this along to our students, and also to sign up to receive these newsletters straight to their inboxes! Click below to sign up and for more information about Mesa Journeys:

<https://linktr.ee/mesajourneys>



Please join us in congratulating the newly elected Associated Student Government officers for the 2026-2027 academic year. They are an inspiring team of student leaders that will impact our campus through community building, social change, and collaboration. You will be seeing plenty of them throughout the next year!

For more information, please visit the [Associated Student Government webpage](#).

President

Miranda Augelli Acuna

Vice-President

Nicole Rodriguez

Treasurer

Francheska Arias

Senate Positions:

Regina Alaniz

Leenoy Barkhord

Maximus Coolbaugh

Francesca Costa

Kathya Dena

Christian Del Rio

Talor Gitten

Vicki Gonzalez

Ayana Kaeasawa

Stephen Sorrell

Yeng Zheng

The Associated Student Government (ASG) is pleased to announce the recipients of our Annual Departmental Funding Grants. Congratulations to the following departments, which will be receiving funding to support direct outreach events and engagement opportunities for our students. We appreciate your commitment to enhancing the student experience and look forward to seeing the positive impact of these programs and initiatives.

Congratulations to:

Career Services

Counseling

Transfer Center

Allied Health

Student Affairs

Mental Health Services

The Stand

Mesa Outreach



[Click on the flyer to enlarge](#)

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH '26

WEDNESDAY MAY 4
Blue Ribbon Day with Gelato
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
FAST Center, K-101

THURSDAY MAY 5
Career Services Workshop: Elevator Pitch and 1 Hour Resume Support
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
FAST Center, K-101

FRIDAY MAY 6
Empowerment Workshop with Jay Boyer
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
FAST Center, K-101

THURSDAY MAY 14
Servingness to Foster Youth
12:30 - 1:30 pm
FAST Center, K-101

FRIDAY MAY 15
Campus Visit: University of California San Diego
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
UCSD

MONDAY MAY 19
Behind the Scenes: The Team's Semester
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
FAST Center, K-101

THURSDAY MAY 21
NextUp & FAST Achievement Ceremony
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
MC 211

WEDNESDAY MAY 26
Espresso Your Success Day 1
9:30 - 11:00 am
FAST Center, K-101

WEDNESDAY MAY 27
Espresso Your Success Day 2
9:30 - 11:00 am
FAST Center, K-101

LAVENDER CELEBRATION
HONORING MESA STUDENTS
TUESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
D-101

Join us for a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement of our LGBTQIA+ students at our Lavender Celebration Ceremony!

This event is a testament to the strength of our community and the importance of representation in academia. Let's commemorate this milestone with pride and solidarity, embracing the rich tapestry of identities that make our graduating class truly remarkable.

RSVP
tinyurl.com/2026LavenderCelebration

TRANSFER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
MAY 14TH
11 AM - 1 PM
MESA COMMONS (MC-211 A/B)

The Mesa College Transfer Center invites you to celebrate your transfer acceptance! Please tell us where you got in to be invited to the event! (spaces are limited).

For any questions, contact Ldiaz@sdccd.edu or 619.388.2884.

Interested in attending college?
¿Interesado en asistir a la universidad?

Join us for a 30-minute, virtual session and learn about:

- Community Colleges in San Diego
- How to enroll
- Services that Mexico's Consulate in San Diego provides
- EducationUSA support in Tijuana for Mexican students enrolling at colleges in San Diego

Acompáñanos en una sesión virtual de 30 minutos para aprender de:

- Colegios Comunitarios en San Diego
- Cómo inscribirse al colegio
- Servicios que ofrece el Consulado de México en San Diego
- Asesoría de EducationUSA en Tijuana para estudiantes mexicanos inscritos en colegios en San Diego

May 13 and 14
13 y 14 de mayo
3:00pm - 3:30pm
<https://bit.ly/SDCCD-EduUSA>

Join us via Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/SDCCD-EduUSA>

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM **NEW!**

WELCOME TO THE **EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL**

Create Event Edit Event Non Event Parking Permits

This form can be used for parking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

Reminder regarding parking permits for events, guest speakers, and meetings.

Event Parking:
All parking for events should be included as part of your Event Request in the [Events & Reservation Portal](#). Please keep in mind that all event requests must be submitted at least three weeks before the date of your event (longer for large events). More information can be found in the [Event & Reservation Portal FAQs](#).

Non-Event Individual/Group Permits:
Requests for non-event parking can be submitted via the [Non Event Parking Permit Request Form](#) now available on our [webpage](#), within the [Events & Reservations Portal](#). These would include requests that are not part of an "event," such as guest speakers, departmental meeting attendees, etc. that do not require any other support.

SAFETY TRAINING WEEK

A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single session or the full series—morning and afternoon options available

Cancelled Due to Low Registration

MAY 12 FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING







FIRST AID TRAINING

9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm



MAY 14 BREATHLESS CPR AND AED

9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm





A Safer Campus Starts with You!

We are pleased to announce Safety Training Week, a series of hands-on workshops designed to equip our campus community with essential emergency skills. Join us for a single session or the full series; morning and afternoon options are available to fit your schedule.

Fire Safety: Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Education, and Fire Prevention

May 11th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

First Aid: Basic Aid Techniques, Bleeding Control, and Evacuation Chair

May 12th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

Breathless CPR and AED Demonstrations and Trainings

May 13th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

[Safety Training Week Sign Ups – Fill out form](#)

First come first serve, 25 participants per session.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE · ADMIN SERVICES

▼ WEEKLY SAFETY TIP

KNOW WHERE YOUR AED IS LOCATED

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are mounted in clearly marked cabinets throughout buildings across campus (AED locations available on the Mesa Safety website)— take a moment to find the one nearest to your work area. Use an AED immediately when someone is unresponsive, as this may indicate sudden cardiac arrest. **No prior training is needed** — once opened, the device provides clear spoken and visual instructions that guide you through every step. Always call **911 first**, begin CPR, then apply the AED as soon as it is available.

75% SURVIVAL RATE

Immediate use of an AED within 4 minutes can increase survival rates as high as 75%.

AED SAFETY TIP

Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.

[Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#) | [Consolidated Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#)

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Resource: Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office has published a new [Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary](#) on our website to support a shared understanding of the terminology used across Mesa College. Whether you're reviewing reports, navigating dashboards, or interpreting campus communications, this resource is designed to clarify common data definitions and acronyms in one central place. You can find it on the [IE website](#) under the **Data Dictionary &**

Acronym Glossary section. We invite you to explore it and reach out to the IE Office with suggestions for new additions, updates, or corrections as we continue to build and refine this tool together. For feedback, please contact **Adriana Caetano** at acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu.

IE Office Hours – A Dedicated Time to Think Through Your Data Together

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling you, we welcome the opportunity to work alongside you. During the Spring semester, **from January 20 (Flex Week) through June 1**, we will pilot these new office hours. Join us **Tuesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the IE Office (A-109). We have a conference room for collaborative conversations—and yes, there's coffee too!

We look forward to being your data thought partner.



FOUNDATION CORNER

A space to learn about our latest efforts to connect partners who share our passion for education with opportunities to give. See how fundraising can help you, our students, and Mesa's mission.

[Learn More](#)



Want to learn more about grant seeking?

View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

[View Recording](#)



Join us for the San Diego Mesa College Olympian Open on **July 24, 2026**, at 12 p.m. as we tee off to support our incredible student athletes. This signature golf fundraiser brings together community leaders, alumni, and champions of education for a day of fun, connection, and purpose. Your participation, whether through sponsorships, donations, or in kind gifts, directly fuels athletic equipment and academic support that help our Olympians succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

[▶ Register and Donate](#)

Our **annual Mesa College Giving Day** will take place on the eve of our graduation commencement, Thursday, May 28th. This is a day where we join together to build community and support for Mesa and our students. With the help of Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera (Mesa Impactship Program Intern), Kiana Kikuchi, and Amanda Brown, we are elevating our efforts this year. Here's our timeline:

- April 20: Ambassador Toolkit Available
- May 4: #MesaGivingDay Kickoff
- May 28: #MesaGivingDay
- May 31: Deadline for #MesaGivingDay donations

We are seeking Ambassadors to help spread the word about #MesaGivingDay - anyone can support!

[▶ Join our Ambassador Interest List](#) for updates on how you can get involved

Participatory Governance

To learn more about our Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate, please visit the links below:

[Associated Students](#)

[Academic Senate](#)

[Classified Senate](#)

In The Know

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community - visit the links below:

[Mesa College Newsroom](#)

[Mesa College Events Calendar](#)

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721

[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

